

Council on Aging Meeting

Saturday October 22nd 2011

A brief meeting was held on Saturday October 22nd after the luncheon given for the seniors had been held. Attending were Mrs. Marsha Harvey, Mrs. Ceil June and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding.

At that time an evaluation of the luncheon took place. Approximately 38 people attended (283 invitation has been sent out using the voting lists of those over 60 years of age). Mrs. Candace Marks was the guest speaker presenting an excellent program on SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders). She presented the group with informative handouts containing material needed to make good choices in medical insurance, and began by explaining the "Donut Hole. She is available to anyone who needs help with their medical insurance. And we do thank her for her excellent presentation.

Mrs. Spaulding reminded the guests of the various benefits offered to the seniors and the disabled by the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation, which is supported by the town and will take passengers to doctors and dentist's appointments, hospital tests, grocery shopping and banks. She also reviewed the Wellness Swim at Kilpatric Athletic Center (again supported by the Town) on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 11:00AM to 12:00. She noted that those who need Fuel Assistance need to call Construct (528-1985) and make an appointment to see the counselor Ms. Jamie McCormick on Thursdays from 1:00PM to 3:00PM for help. Monument Mountain High School has invited seniors to their Christmas Music Program and a luncheon on Tuesday November 15th. Sign up is required!

Mrs. Spaulding shared information gleaned when she attended the District Attorneys seminar on TRAIID. The District Attorney is concerned about the safety of our seniors. She provided the pamphlet on TRIAD to the Police Department and to Mrs. Barbara Marchione the Director of Emergency Management for the Town of New Marlborough. Mrs. Mary Shogry-Hayer is the designated Victims Abuse Counselor situated in the District Attorney's office and is available to the seniors who live in South County should they have any concerns.

Mrs. Spaulding reported that she had spoken with Mrs. Barbara Marchione (Emergency Management Director) with some suggestions focusing upon the safety of seniors in our town during a storm such as Hurricane Irene. Mrs. Spaulding also requested that the Council on Aging be included in the Emergency Managements team planning!

Mrs. June (Chairman) and Mrs. Spaulding will attend the Elder Services of Berkshire County Inc. Annual Meeting on Wednesday October 26th 2011. The next meeting of the COA will be called in December to discuss a general mailing on safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary Treasurer
October 23rd 2011